Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 AID-05 IGA-01 EB-07 COME-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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R 280214Z DEC 74 FM AMEMBASSY MANILA TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9447

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E.O. 11652: GDS TAGS: PINS. RP

SUBJECT: OSMENA/LOPEZ

1. MRS. SERGE OSMENA CALLED ON POLITICAL COUNSELOR DECEMBER 27 TO EXPRESS HER THANKS AND THAT OF LOPEZES FOR INTEREST AND SUPPORT SHOWN BY U.S. SENATE (SHE REFERRED ESPECIALLY TO SENATORS CRANSTON AND BAYH), DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND EMBASSY IN PLIGHT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS INCLUDING HER HUSBAND AND EUGENIO LOPEZ. AFTER DELIVERING THIS MESSAGE WHICH SHE HAD CAREFULLY WRITTEN DOWN ON PIECE OF PAPER, SHE ASKED (A) WHETHER "SENATE AMENDMENT 2003 TO FOREIGN AID BILL (SHE THOUGHT)" HAD PASSED: (B) WHO CHAIRMAN WAS OF HFRC. WOULD APPRECIATE BEING ADVISED OF FATE OF SENATE AMENDMENT, WHICH PRESUMABLY RELATES TO POLITICAL PRISONERS.

2. IN ENSUING CONVERSATION, SHE SAID HER HUSBAND REMAINS UNDER HEAVY GUARD AT VETERANS HOSPITAL. THERE IS NO SIGN OF HIS BEING RELEASED TO HOUSE ARREST. HE HAS NOT, SHE SAYS, BEEN ADVISED AS TO WHETHER AND/OR WHEN THERE WILL BE TRIAL; SHE CLEARLY BEGINNING TO ASSUME THERE WILL NOT BE ANY TRIAL AND THAT HER HUSBAND WILL BE DETAINED INDEFINITELY. SHE SAID FURTHER THAT MARCOS HAD SAID HE DID NOT WANT LOTS OF PRESS COVERAGE AT TRIAL. MOREOVER, HE WOULD NOT PERMIT TANDA AND DIOKNO TO DEFEND OSMENA/LOPEZ (TANADA HAS NOT BEEN PERMITTED TO SEE OSMENA/LOPEZ SINCE THEIR CONFIDENTIAL

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TRANSFER TO THE HOSPITAL). SHE CONCLUDED THAT MARCOS HAD

OBVIOUSLY BROKEN AGREEMENT HE HAD NEGOTIATED THROUGH ENRILE ON HANDLING OSMENA/LOPEZ.

- 3. COMMENT: WE ASSUME HER CALL ON EMBASSY INTENDED TO ENCOURAGE CONTINUED PRESSURE ON MARCOS TO TRY OR RELEASE OSMENA/LOPEZ.
- 4. HER REMARKS ROUGHLY PARALLEL COMMENT WE HAD FROM LOPEZ SOURCE FEW DAYS AGO THAT GOVERNMENT WOULD APPOINT DEFENSE AND WOULD HOLD TRIAL IN CAMERA. SO FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, HOWEVER, GOVERNMENT HAS NOT MADE FINAL DECISION ON HOW TO HANDLE TRIAL OF OSMENA/LOPEZ. COMMENTS TO DATE WOULD SUGGEST EXTREME GOVERNMENT NERVOUSNESS ABOUT POSSIBLE ADVERSE PRESS COMMENT ON CONDUCT OF TRIAL. SULLIVAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Concepts: LEGISLATORS, LAW, POLITICAL PRISONERS, TRIALS, JOURNALISTS

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 28 DEC 1974 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974MANII A15181

Document Number: 1974MANILA15181 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00 Drafter: n/a

Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D740376-0582 From: MANILA

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974126/aaaaaewd.tel Line Count: 74 Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM

Office: ACTION EA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a Reference: n/a

Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED Review Authority: MorefiRH

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 09 AUG 2002

Review Event:

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <09-Aug-2002 by worrelsw>; APPROVED <30 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>

Review Markings:

Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier: Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: OSMENA/LOPEZ

TAGS: PINS, RP, US, (OSMENA), (LOPEZ)

To: STATE

Type: TE

Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005